

Waikato Regional Council.

Private Bag.

Hamilton.

Dear Members,

I am writing from a farmer's point of view, and the following are my submissions.

1. Farmers' feel threatened and pushed by actions undertaken by the W.R.C. Suicide of members' increase, when under stress.
2. Farmers' refrain from improvements to farms. With the words of one agriculture contractor- "I would do nothing to improve a farm."
Your handling of the Okoroire case is an illustration to all. – The word improvement is not understood by WRC.
3. You taking all and sundry to court brings excessive fines. A bike rider in town without a helmet gets a warning OR if taken to court, a minimum fine, \$200. Should WRC be handling the case, the fine is colossal.
4. A farmer cannot be on a roof doing repairs without scaffolding, yet I drive in town and see plenty of roofs with only a ladder. Saw a man on a roof at Waikato Hospital last week. Should he slip off; it's a hard landing. The side he was on, there was no ladder in sight. A farmer would land on a paddock AND he would be taken to Court and the fine would be so excessive, that would put the farmer out of business.
5. Lakes, Streams and Rivers. Hamilton Lake was once clean enough for a Sunday School picnic. We could all enjoy swimming in the lake and enjoy the slides and swings.

Now there is weed growing around the edge and ducks. Ducks and pukekos are very intelligent. Offer them a morsel once and they will always be there. The Waikato river was dredged and the water flowed. The Mangahoe was straightened and flowed 61 years ago.

Now the WRC seems to want a farm to be a pond. Now when that happens we are still monitored for excess water. It seems to be a case of Dammed if you do and Dammed if you don't. And the noxious weeds flow in.

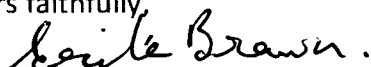
It is not safe to jump into the Waikato river south of the Karapiro dam. I don't know if there are still rotting trees. One swimmer this last week and a doctor a few years ago did not surface after jumping in. Removal of trees should have been done prior to damning the river.

Perhaps education by you, on the effects of drink on swimmers would be a good move.

Rivers and streams must flow to keep clean. The dredging of the Waikato

- should be your first attack. What is dredged, can be placed on the edge and grassed with a firm rooting grass. Roose used to sell the sand he dredged.
6. The government has given you wide sweeping powers; but you hold it only due to Government and residents satisfaction. Part, or all, will crumble away, should you squander or mis-use your power.
 7. Bad investments, show that you are in need of better financial advice.
I have not seen a balance sheet in recent years; but in two years, you lost \$72 Million dollars. A lot of money, when farmers' are struggling to make a living. Our rates continue to rise.
 8. I suggest you leave the rural sector alone.
Look at the towns, acres of new housing, with increased population. The run-off from the new settlements, be it with dirt or tar-seal. Then the sewerage. A Council seems to be able to rubber stamp this sort of development and there is not the infrastructure to cope with the completed needs.
 9. You have caused farmers' to be very negative in their farm improvements. After listening to the negativity at Putaruru and Okoroire, and then the Court cases. One cannot be surprised at farms now becoming owned by overseas investors.
 10. Who is responsible for erupting mountains? Then there is the geothermal activity. That and earthquakes have been with us for centuries, as well as elsewhere in the world.
 11. The final cause of our countryside deteriorating is the Tourism industry and Immigration. We all know of the latter, which is controlled selection for employment or further education. But, 71,000 permanent immigrants bought their way into N.Z. last year. Last month, January, 6,500 came to reside permanently. So, apart from fouling the ground wherever they tramp, be it glass, plastic, human waste - be it in our National Parks, Coromandel, or 3,000 a day on the Central Plateau, that run-off is far worse than farmers' sheep or cows. Guardia is another curse brought in.
 12. Weeds, you know the names, have entered this country via tourists bringing kayaks and other water sporting gear from European countries, that have this highly contagious weed in their waterways. Consequently many of our lakes and rivers in the south island are now contaminated; and not from dairying.
 13. So I look forward to a positive response from WRC, then, and only then, will I be able to see family farms remaining in families and farmers will enjoy less stress.

Yours faithfully,


Cecilé Brawn. (Mrs.)

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28th February, 2017.